

THE BUTTONHOLE BANDIT

Book and Lyrics by Fengar Gael

Music by Michael Silversher

www.youthplays.com
info@youthplays.com

CAST OF CHARACTERS

FROM THE PLANET EARTH

PHOEBE POTTS, a precocious child of seven

HOWARD POTTS, Phoebe's father, an insurance salesman

MILDRED POTTS, Phoebe's mother, an accountant

FROM THE GALAXY CLESTO

MELF THE GELF

ALPHOS

NARBOT

VIZEER VOLSPAR

XANTHEES

QWERKISS

BRELLEYA

PHOBEE MOTH

NOTE: *The Buttonhole Bandit* can be performed by an ensemble cast of six actors.

SUGGESTED DOUBLING:

Howard Potts / Alpho s/ Xanthees

Mildred Potts / Phobee Moth

Vizeer / Qwerkiss.

TIME

The present.

PLACE

A home in a city suburb and the five planets of the Galaxy Clesto: Gelvos, Tobos, Brelluma, Mollbath, and Vucuma. A stylized set represents the interior of a living room with a closet that contains clothing, sporting equipment, and hidden access to the Clesto Galaxy. The planets may be suggested by colorful fabrics that transform the surface of the stage.

SONG TITLES

The Closet Song

Somewhere That's Nowhere

Gelvinora

Seeking the Seed

The Terrors

Melf's Farewell

The Windship Song

Tobos Oppositions

Phoebeland

A Toy! A Toy!

Brelleya's Lament

The Courage of a Gelf

The Girl You Could Be

Poison Ivy

SCENE 1: THE CLOSETING

(The Potts family living room. Eerie, echoing voices are heard singing as the closet door opens and a bowling ball emerges, rolling to the center of the stage. Inside the closet, boots begin tapping and hats gyrate while coat sleeves beckon to the music.)

ECHOING VOICES

*Where the door is always open,
Where the walls are growing wide;
Step into my closet,
There's a universe
Inside.*

(The bowling ball rolls back into the closet, and the door slams shut to a loud clap of thunder. PHOEBE enters, shivering, wearing gloves and carrying an umbrella.)

PHOEBE

Brrrrrr...

(Another crack of thunder is heard as PHOEBE shrieks, dropping to her knees, her hands covering her head.)

PHOEBE

Yiiiiiiii!!! Stop! Please, please, stop! Now, relax, relax, don't panic, breathe deeply,...walk to the closet,...open the door,...put away your hat, your gloves. Wh...what's that?! Shoo! Shoo! You moldy old moth!

(PHOEBE grasps the umbrella and pursues the moth around the room, then into the closet.)

PHOEBE

Go away! Go away! Get out of there!!

(PHOEBE follows the moth into the closet, and the door slams shut! HER shrill scream is heard, then fades to a whimper.)

PHOEBE

Ahhhhhhhhiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii...

SCENE 2: THE CALAMITIES

(Phoebe's mother, MILDRED POTTS, enters the house carrying bags of groceries.)

MILDRED POTTS

Yoo hoo, Phoebe, darling, I'm home!

(pause)

Oh, Phoebe, where are you? Phoebeeeeeee!!

(MILDRED dashes off as HOWARD POTTS enters, whistling. Soon MILDRED returns.)

MILDRED POTTS

Howard, I can't find Phoebe! I've looked everywhere; she's not in the house!

HOWARD POTTS

No need to panic. Her bike's in the garage so she obviously made it home -- which is no small feat considering the traffic. Did you check the back yard? There was a thunderstorm earlier. While it's highly unlikely, she may have been struck by...

MILDRED POTTS

No, no, she's not there either! Maybe one of her classmates came by and they left...?

HOWARD POTTS

Impossible! We've drilled her a thousand times to *never* answer the door till we return.

MILDRED POTTS

Yes, it's not like Phoebe to leave on her own. She's always called to get permission, and she's such a timid child.

HOWARD POTTS

She's not timid; she's sensible! What with the polluted air, contagious germs, and that vicious dog of the Grimleys'. Remember, Mildred: calamity threatens everywhere, even in the sanctity of our homes. Look at poor Huey Flanagan who tripped on the garden hose; and little Wendy Wang who ate the potted poinsettia; and let's not forget your nephew, Gerald, who found those matches under the sink and wiped out an entire neighborhood...

MILDRED POTTS

Oh, stop it, Howard! I'm worried sick without your raving on and on!

HOWARD POTTS

I'm *not* raving! In fact, I've been thinking of cataloging all possible childhood disasters, including diseases, and presenting a volume to Phoebe for...

MILDRED POTTS

No, no, I won't let you! She's frightened enough as it is. Why just yesterday she asked if there were any safe cities left in the country. Of course, I said, you just have to go out and find them.

(pause)

Oh, no! Oh, heavens, that's it! She ran away! Call the police, Howard! Call the police!!

HOWARD POTTS

Oh, for Pete's sake, get hold of yourself! Before we do anything rash, let's comb the neighborhood. You drive east down Lowden Street; I'll take Wisteria.

MILDRED POTTS

Wait! Where's my umbrella?

HOWARD POTTS

In the closet!

(MILDRED dashes to the closet, grasps the doorknob, then stops.)

MILDRED POTTS

Oh, I just remembered! I left it in the car!

HOWARD POTTS

We'll meet back here in twenty minutes.

(HOWARD and MILDRED exit.)

SCENE 3: BEYOND THE BUTTONHOLE

(Wind sounds are heard as the closet bursts open and a mist billows forth. The closet walls dissemble as streams of shimmering fabric unfurl, transforming the stage into an alien landscape where PHOEBE sits huddled, singing with a tremulous voice.)

PHOEBE

Where am I?
Not a blade of grass,
Not a drop of rain,
Not a moon or a star,
Or an object to name.
I'm somewhere
That's nowhere
That's never been found;
I'm somewhere
That's nowhere,
Just sky over ground.

(A hideous MAMMOTH MOTH enters, crossing unseen behind PHOEBE who continues singing.)

PHOEBE

Nothing flying above,
Nothing crawling below,
No footprints to follow
To places I know.

I'm somewhere
That's nowhere,
But where can it be?
For somewhere
Must be someplace
Because it's holding...

MAMMOTH MOTH and PHOEBE

...me!

(PHOEBE turns and screams, then faints as the MAMMOTH MOTH disappears. Seconds later, MELF, a pale creature with pointed ears and large

hands, creeps cautiously towards Phoebe, poking her shoulder. SHE awakens, shrieking with terror!)

PHOEBE

Yahhhhhhhhhhhhh!!! Don't touch me! Go away! Go away!

(MELF shuffles off.)

PHOEBE

No! Wait! Wait! Come back! Please, come back! Did you see it? Over there. It was a...a huge hairy monster with...with black eyes and wings!

MELF

Nay, 'twas only thee and me.

PHOEBE

I'm really upset; my pulse is racing!

MELF

Where goeth this monster?

PHOEBE

How do I know? I don't even know where I am or who...who are you?

MELF

Melf the Gelf.

PHOEBE

Gelf? What's a Gelf?

MELF

A Gelfin folk from Gelvos, ancient orb of the Galaxy Clesto.

PHOEBE

What?! Am I on another planet?! The last thing I remember was chasing a moth into the closet. It flew through a buttonhole and then...

MELF

Presto: Clesto! Galaxy of the Nether Yon. Methinks thy buttonhole is one of the hop holes the universe maketh to bring creatures hither.

PHOEBE

I'm *not* a creature; I...I'm a human being.

MELF

Hast thou a name?

PHOEBE

Of course, but I can't tell just anyone, especially anyone weird. Look, there's obviously been a mistake. I'm not supposed to be here. I should be home -- on planet Earth!

MELF

"Earth?" Earth bringeth no nod to the memory pod.

PHOEBE

My parents will think I've been killed or kidnapped!

MELF

Parents? Prithee, tell me of "parents."

PHOEBE

They're mothers and fathers who bring children like me into the world. Then they raise them in houses till they're old enough to swim with the sharks.

MELF

"Sharks?" Tell me of sharks.

PHOEBE

They're giant meat-eating fish with sharp teeth. Look, it's just an expression my father uses. Anyway, I don't swim. I'm afraid of water.

MELF

Gelves needeth no parents. We sprout fully grown from glands in our hands.

PHOEBE

Really? I'm impressed -- now you've got to get me out of here! I'm already having palpitations 'cause it's starting to get dark, and if your climate includes thunder and lightning, then we've really got to get moving, and fast!

MELF

Then hasten to the planet's other face where beameth her eternal suns.

PHOEBE

You mean you have sunshine all day long?

MELF

Whatsoever you desire, we giveth thee, and a name bestowed that thou canst speak.

PHOEBE

Of course I can speak my name!

(pause)

Well, you seem harmless enough. I'm called Phoebe, Phoebe Potts.

MELF

With joy I taketh thee hither, fair Fleabee.

(MELF extends his hand toward PHOEBE, who slaps it.)

MELF

Yowwwww!

PHOEBE

It's Phoebe, not Fleabee! And don't shake hands! Sorry, but my father says most germs are transferred from the hands, and so far I've avoided measles, mumps, and only had one cold in eight years.

(MELF leads PHOEBE to an area filled with hand shaped trees and shrubbery.)

MELF

We Gelves clingeth close, beguiled by the Gelvinora blooms that changeth colors with the winds.

PHOEBE

Well, I don't "clingeth", and I hate changes of any kind. I like everything neat, tidy, and predictable. In fact, if I'm exposed to any radical changes -- like the time I went to camp -- I tend to hyperventilate. I've already fainted sixteen times, mostly from my allergies to peanuts and walnut, and... Oh, no, there's more of you!

(PHOEBE retreats as two more Gelves enter: ALPHOS and NARBOT.)

MELF

Feareth not my fellow Gelves, Alphos and Narbot, vassals to the Great Vizeer Volspar.

ALPHOS

Greetings!

NARBOT

Hark ye!

(THEY offer their hands, but PHOEBE smacks them with revulsion.)

ALPHOS and NARBOT

Yowwwww!

MELF

She toucheth not our Gelfin hands.

NARBOT

Aye, she slappeth before I graspeth! Look, Alphas, she bringeth bumps and...

ALPHOS and NARBOT

...blisters!

PHOEBE

Oh, for Pete's sake, I barely touched you!

NARBOT

Thou art a glum chum, all skittery, twittery, and...

ALPHOS and NARBOT

...impossible to divine.

PHOEBE

If you're saying I'm impulsive, that's just plain crazy!

NARBOT

Thou hast raised thy voice.

ALPHOS

Thou art showing signs of fitfulness...

NARBOT and ALPHOS

...and fluster.

PHOEBE

Don't be silly! I *hate* fluster; I'm *never* excited! It's bad for my blood pressure!

NARBOT

Then thou wilt find great refuge on Gelvos where all dwelleth in blissful...

MELF, NARBOT, ALPHOS
(singing in harmony)

...harmony.

*Gelvinora nula nyla nay,
Gelfin gardens bloometh night and day.
Gelvinora nula nyla nun,
'Tis why the Gelves of Gelves greet the sun;
'Tis why we probeth through the Gelfin night,
And seeketh past the darkness to the light.*

PHOEBE
Do you live in houses like we do on Earth?

ALPHOS
There be Gelvinora homes of Gelfin brick...

PHOEBE
And what about a hospital in case I get sick?

NARBOT
And Gelvinora cures for Gelfin sick...

PHOEBE
And do you have tuna sandwiches and normal trees and a place to wash my hands?

MELF, ALPHOS, NARBOT
*Gelvinora fish swim Gelfin seas,
From Gelvinora buds sprout Gelfin trees;
Gelvinora soap cleans Gelfin grime,
And thou hast heard a Gelvinora rhyme.*

ALPHOS
And with our Gelfin hands we clappeth and snappeth...

NARBOT
...and gropeth and stroketh.

ALPHOS
Aye! Harken, Narbot, thy fingers are a-fester with...

NARBOT and ALPHOS
...warts!

NARBOT
Thine as well!

ALPHOS
What bringeth this blight?

PHOEBE
Well, don't look at me! I've never had a wart in my life. You're the weirdoes. On Earth you'd be part of a freak show!

ALPHOS
Nay, nay, with these proud paws we feeleth more than other species.
(holding up his hand)
We perceiveth through thy flesh is thy bones...

NARBOT
...thy brains...

MELF
...thy liver, lungs, and a great crimson heart! Thou shalt live a full century!

PHOEBE
What?! You mean I'll live a hundred years?

ALPHOS
Precisely one hundred and three years and four months. Then thou shalt perish.

PHOEBE
That's ridiculous! I'm lucky to have lived this long! Nobody can see with their hands, and you certainly can't see through my skin.

NARBOT
Aye, and through brick and stone.

PHOEBE
I don't believe it! What's in my pocket?

NARBOT
A latchkey, and...

ALPHOS, NARBOT, MELF
...a gum ball!

PHOEBE
Amazing! But how can you know how long I'll live?

ALPHOS

'Tis the gift of Gelfin hands. Soon thou shalt grasp our Gelfin ways.

PHOEBE

A hundred and three years? You mean nothing can kill me before then?

MELF, NARBOT, ALPHOS

Nay.

PHOEBE

Wait till I tell my dad! He can stop buying me so much insurance.

MELF

"Insurance?" Prithee, tell us of insurance.

PHOEBE

My father sells it. People pay him money to protect themselves in case they die or lose their property. Is it possible to get hands like yours?

MELF

Aye, but they must be earned.

PHOEBE

Well, that should be easy. On Earth I'm a model student, a perfect child -- except for my phobias and the other kids hate me. So what do I have to do?

MELF

Dwelleth on Gelvos in harmony, and contemplate the beauty of a single leaf from the limb of a flangee tree. Then thou must croooooon...

(ALPHOS and NARBOT demonstrate, holding a leaf and chanting a single tone throughout Melf's song.)

MELF

*Thou must gaze at the leaf,
Through the leaf find the veins,
Through the veins seek the seed
That will lead
Thee to heed
Thy fiiiiire.*

ALPHOS and NARBOT

Croooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo...

Croooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo...

Croooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo...

PHOEBE

Well, it sounds simple enough.

(plucking a leaf)

I'll start gazing right now!

MELF

Wait! With gazing cometh questing. Thou must have a burning yearning.

PHOEBE

Oh, I've got a yearning alright. I want those hands so when I get back to Earth people will hire me to look through walls, through secret vaults, even through the ground. I'll find oil and diamonds and Egyptian mummies. Doctors, detectives, *everyone* will want me -- especially my dad! I'll tell his clients how long they'll live so they can plan their funerals and stop worrying about accidents or hurricanes or that giant asteroid he says is heading towards Earth. I'll be famous; I'll be rich; I'll even have my own TV show -- so let's get started!

(PHOEBE imitates Melf, chanting to the leaf.)

PHOEBE

*I must gaze at the leaf,
Through the leaf find the veins,
Through the veins seek the seed
That will lead
Me to heed
My fiiiiire.*

MELF, NARBOT, ALPHOS

*Gelvinora nula nyla nee,
Through Gelvinora hands the eyes can see;
Gelvinora nula nyla name,
How shadows all hath shifted since she caaaaame.*

PHOEBE

Darn! This is so discouraging! I can see through the veins to the seeds all right, but why are the leaves always withering?

NARBOT

Prithee, Phoebe, canst thou peep through my pocket?

PHOEBE

Well, there's something small and flat: a handkerchief!

NARBOT and ALPHOS

Nay!

PHOEBE
It's something square and thin: a butter dish!

NARBOT and ALPHOS
Nay!

PHOEBE
A book?

NARBOT
Nay, nay!

NARBOT and ALPHOS
'Tis a mirror!

MELF
See thyself, fair Phoebe.

(As PHOEBE stares into the mirror, the MAMMOTH
MOTH crosses from behind, causing her to drop it.)

PHOEBE
Ahhhhhhiiiiiiiiiii!!!

ALPHOS
Cease thy shrieking!

NARBOT
What ails thee?

PHOEBE
Did...did you see it?! It's that...that huge, hairy monster with black eyes!

MELF
Whither?

PHOEBE
It flew behind the dunes! Wait! It's back again! Look! Over there! Oh, darn, it's gone! But you did see it, right?

ALPHOS and NARBOT
Nay!

MELF
I saw nothing!

PHOEBE
What?! Are you blind? How could you miss it?!

MELF
Hush, thou art all adither.

PHOEBE

Of course I'm "adither!" I can't believe you didn't see it! I told you where to look, for Pete's sake!

ALPHOS

All beasts perished in bygone days.

NARBOT

'Tis impossible.

(Suddenly a loud humming is heard. MELF, ALPHOS and NARBOT respond, adding their own harmonies.)

PHOEBE

Wh...what's that?! What are you doing?!

MELF

The Vizeer Volspar cometh!

PHOEBE

Who?!

SCENE 4: THE BANISHMENT

(The humming intensifies as VIZEER VOLSPAR enters. His hands are enormous, his voice commanding.)

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Hark ye! Our sister planets hath suffered grave calamities!

ALPHOS and NARBOT

Nay!

MELF

How so?

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Fearsome windstorms on Brelluma and quakings on Tobos.

NARBOT and ALPHOS

Zounds!

VIZEER VOLSPAR

I feareth for our future.

(glancing towards Phoebe)

Something is awry.

PHOEBE

Well, don't look at me! I just got here; you don't even know who I am.

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Thou art Phoebe Potts!

MELF

Volspar hath powers that perceiveth through minds to memories.

PHOEBE

If you can see my memories, can you see my parents?

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Aye, Howard and Mildred. And I see thee, thy life on Earth.

PHOEBE

Really?

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Thou art a fearsome, solitary creature who gawketh at boxes with strange flickering forms and shrunken creatures like thyself.

PHOEBE

That's my tee vee and computer.

VIZEER VOLSPAR

In thy dwelling lie jumbles of fluff-filled beasts, miniatures like thyself, and orbs of many colors.

PHOEBE

Those are my toys. You Gelves wouldn't understand since you're born fully grown, but on Earth we grow in stages, and one of those stages is childhood. Part of childhood is playing with...

PHOEBE

...toys.

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Toys...

VIZEER VOLSPAR

...must be wondrous. Thine eyes are asparkle with memories of glee.

MELF

I wouldst like to have a childhood.

ALPHOS and NARBOT

Aye!

PHOEBE

Look, you can't just "have a childhood" because of some toys. You have to be young and have parents and grandparents. Then you have to be educated to find out what you do best so you can work and earn a living.

VIZEER VOLSPAR

(patting her head)

And what dost thou do best?

PHOEBE

I don't know yet. If you're so smart, maybe you can tell me!

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Nay, but thou are willful, with a cold mold in thy heart that maketh the Gelfin winds blow north and the Gelvinora blooms wither and rot.

PHOEBE

What?! Why, that's crazy!

ALPHOS

Aye, and she bringeth a plague that maketh nimble fingers grow...

NARBOT and ALPHOS
 ...a-fester with warts!

VIZEER VOLSPAR
 (inspecting his hands)
 Warts?! Arrrrgh!

PHOEBE
 Look, I had nothing to do with that! I can't spread plagues, and I certainly can't
 change winds or kill flowers...

VIZEER VOLSPAR
 Silence! Every Gelf on Gelvos weaveth a web with every other Gelf and all things
 that flourish: the animals, the plants. All dwelleth in holy...

MELF, NARBOT, ALPHOS, VOLSPAR
 ...*harmony*...

(A wind howls.)

VIZEER VOLSPAR
 Shhhh! Harken! Gelvos will grow black and barren as bone if thou stayeth past
 the hour. Thou must be banished!

PHOEBE
 What do you mean "banished?"
 (to Melf)
 What does he mean?

VIZEER VOLSPAR
 Till the galaxy mendeth we must sendeth thee off!

PHOEBE
 Look, I can't leave now! Not till I can see with my hands!

VIZEER VOLSPAR
 Goeth forth and restoreth the balance! The order! And the...

MELF, NARBOT, ALPHOS, VOLSPAR
 ...*harmony*...

PHOEBE
 Me?! But how can I "restoreth" the...?

VIZEER VOLSPAR

First seeketh the planets Tobos and Brelluma.

PHOEBE

What?!

VIZEER VOLSPAR

From Brelluma flee thee to Mollbath and from Mollbath to Vucuma where tubular probes absorbeth the space betwixt galaxies. They canst deliver thee hence through thy hop-hole on Earth.

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Aye, 'tis a dot near the blot on a chart of the lesser galaxies.

PHOEBE

Wow! You mean I'm going back home?

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Only after thou cureth Clesto of chaos!

PHOEBE

Look, I don't know how to "cureth" a cold much less...

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Silence! A Gelf must guideth Phoebe.

ALPHOS

Nay!

NARBOT and ALPHOS

Not !!

MELF

Nor !!

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Then thou goeth alone!

PHOEBE

Alone?!

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Alphos, Narbot, bringeth forth the windship!

(NARBOT and ALPHOS exit.)

PHOEBE

Windship? Wh...what's a windship?

VIZEER VOLSPAR

It rolleth on wafts of wind betwixt planets.

PHOEBE

You mean it's like a...a space ship? Forget it! The last time I flew somewhere I got so nervous they had to give me tranquilizers. I can't help it: I *hate* flying, and I especially hate flying alone to places I've never been!

(NARBOT and ALPHOS enter with the windship, a huge black sphere with head-sized holes.)

PHOEBE

Wh...what in the world...?

VIZEER VOLSPAR

'Tis time to board the Walbollbing, the swiftest of windships!

PHOEBE

You've got to be kidding? *That's* a windship! It looks like...like the bowling ball my mom keeps in the closet.

VIZEER VOLSPAR

Get thee inside.

PHOEBE

No waaaaay! I mean, how...how do I know it's safe? It's not even insured. I mean, is it equipped with helmets?

MELF and VOLSPAR

Nay!

PHOEBE

And...and what about seat belts?

ALPHOS and NARBOT

Nay!

PHOEBE

Forget it! I...I can't, I just can't. Look at me: I'm already shaking. I can feel it; it's coming...

MELF
What cometh?

ALPHOS
What ails thee?

PHOEBE
Feel the terrors -- I can't hide!
Oh, the terrors -- they're inside!
I can feel them -- oh, the terrors!
They won't let me -- oh, the terrors!
Take that ride!

VIZEER VOLSPAR
Tameth thy tremblings and hoppeth aboard!

NARBOT
Come, Phoebe, graspeth my hand.

PHOEBE
No! I'll stay exactly where I am and I *never* hold hands. It's out of the question!

MELF
Wait! I willst accompany Phoebe, lead her hither through the galaxy.

ALPHOS and NARBOT
Zounds!

ALPHOS
Art thou daft?!

VIZEER VOLSPAR
Why hazard thy life for this discontented creature?

MELF
She intrigueth me. And after she cureth Clesto of chaos, I willst escort her to Earth, then returneth hither with bushels of toys!

VIZEER VOLSPAR
Aye! And all the lore and learning of childhood!

PHOEBE
You can't come to Earth! My parents will have a fit, and I can't leave till my hands...

VICEER VOLSPAR
Silence!!

*Qwelleth thy fears,
'Tis time to flee,
And bringeth back,
Bringeth back,
Serenityyyyyyy...*

MELF
*Farewell, farewell,
My dear Gelfinland,
With suns everlasting,
With gardens aglow...*

NARBOT and ALPHOS
*From the places you seeketh
No Gelf hath come home...*

MELF
*Remember me always,
Dear friends I have known.*

PHOEBE
*I'm so frightened of heights,
I can't even chase kites.
As they climb, I start falling,
And then I start bawling.
'Cause my legs have gone numb,
Which is why I can't run
From the shivers
Oh, the quivers.*

VICEER VOLSPAR
*Open the door,
Get thee inside;
I'm losing my patience,
'Tis time for a riiiiiiiide...*

MELF
*Farewell, farewell,
Don't thinketh me sad...*

ALPHOS and NARBOT
*You flee with a child
Who seemeth quite mad.*

MELF
*Though she bringeth
New plagues,
She hath her own charm...*

ALPHOS and NARBOT
*You're fleeing from Gelovs
 To save it from harm.*

PHOEBE
*I hate feeling locked up
 In small rooms with doors shut.
 Now you want me to fly
 In a ball through the sky,
 At high speeds beyond light
 In the dead of the night,
 Oh, the shivers,
 Oh, the quivers...
 Oh, the shivers...
 Oh, the quivers...*

VIZEER VOLSPAR
*Push her inside,
 Out of my sight;
 She's a danger, a menace,
 'Tis time for her flight!*

MELF
*Farewell, farewell,
 New ventures await,
 As we travel through space
 To meet our new fate.
 Time to travel with Phoebe;
 Discover her home...*

ALPHOS and NARBOT
*Riding the windship,
 You'll face the unknown.*

MELF
I'll face the unknown.

(VOLSPAR, ALPHOS, and NARBOT push a struggling PHOEBE into the windship, then scurry away. MELF and PHOEBE peek their heads out of the windship's holes. Meanwhile, the MAMMOTH MOTH appears, unnoticed by Phoebe and Melf, holding a normal sized bowling ball (i.e. the windship) with miniature heads of Phoebe and Melf. When the windship flies, the MOTH dashes about, making wild swoops with the ball, thereby revealing the flight pattern of the larger windship which moves in simultaneous decelerated motion.)

PHOEBE
 Oh, no, we're moving. Oh, my heart, my heart...

MELF

*Flying through space, on a roll, on a spin,
Zzzzooming the loop doo, riding the rim;
We're off like a rocket, our destiny: flight!
Oh, the windship, the windship,
Faster than light!*

(PHOEBE joins MELF in "The Windship Song," her voice shrill with terror.)

PHOEBE and MELF

*Flying through space, on a roll, on a spin,
Zzzzooming the loop doo, riding the rim;
We're off like a rocket, our destiny: flight!
Oh, the windship, the windship,
Faster than light!*

SCENE 5: PLANET TOBOS

(The suns and shrubbery of Gelvos vanish, revealing a landscape of stark contrasts as the windship rolls to a stop. At the same time the MAMMOTH MOTH puts down the bowling ball, then skulks away. MELF and PHOEBE exit the windship and attempt to walk, but are riveted to the ground. The distant sounds of laughter and weeping are heard.)

MELF

Hark ye! The planet Tobos!

PHOEBE

Whoa! What's wrong? I can hardly move.

MELF

Gravity grippeth hard on Gelvos. Shush! Methinks I heareth laughter.

PHOEBE

No, I believe I heard crying. Yes, I distinctly heard crying.

MELF

Alas, 'tis weeping after all.

PHOEBE

No, no, you're right. It's laughter, definitely laughter.

(Two bald creatures approach wearing enormous boots: XANTHEES, dressed brightly and skipping merrily, and QWERKISS, trudging slowly, dressed in mourning.)

XANTHEES

Welcome! Welcome! Ha, ha, ha!

QWERKISS

Drats! Trespassers!

PHOEBE

(whispering to Melf)

Tell them to go away!

MELF

Greetings from Gelvos!

XANTHEES

Oh, my stars! I'm delighted to meet you! I'm Xanthees; he's Qwerkiss. We're all packed and ready to roll!

QWERKISS

Go back where you came from!

XANTHEES

What beautiful faces, what bright eyes! Such dazzling smiles!

QWERKISS

Yeeech! I can't stand happy, wholesome faces.

PHOEBE

That's not very nice, and I'm not happy!

QWERKISS

Good.

XANTHEES

Don't mind him, sweetie. He's usually in a sad mood, and when he's not, he's mean and grouchy.

QWERKISS

That's a lie, you moron! I'm always sad, always, and anyone who doesn't agree gets a fist in the face!

XANTHEES

I agree, I agree, heh, heh.

QWERKISS

I'll knock out your crooked teeth!

XANTHEES

I said I agree, and I'd be honored to spend every spare minute in the misery of your company, but our saviors have arrived, and we don't want to chase them away, now do we?

PHOEBE

"Saviors?" What do you mean?

XANTHEES

Our planet's shrinking and you've come to rescue us!

PHOEBE

What?!

MELF

Aye, 'tis said that Tobos is doomed to crumbdom.

QWERKISS

Who cares?! Good riddance, I say!

XANTHEES

A few days ago our magnetic poles started converging, and the closer north came to south, the closer Qwerkiss came to me.

QWERKISS

I didn't move a muscle! Xanthees came to me!

XANTHEES

Qwerkiss was born in the wintry north. I was born in the sizzling south.

(singing)

That's why I'm drawn to bright sunny yellow.

QWERKISS

Give me the blackest side of the moon.

XANTHEES

I like the sort of songs you bellow.

QWERKISS

The one song I know doesn't come with a tune.

XANTHEES

I'm witty.

QWERKISS

I'm bored.

XANTHEES

I give things.

QWERKISS

I hoard!

XANTHEES

I do things!

I wait! QWERKISS

I love life. XANTHEES

I hate! QWERKISS

I'm hopeful. XANTHEES

I'm not! QWERKISS

You'll save us. XANTHEES

We'll rot! QWERKISS

(As the song ends, PHOEBE approaches XANTHEES with trepidation.)

PHOEBE

Well, I...I'm Phoebe Potts and he's Melf the Gelf. Look, I'm sorry, but we're not here to save you. We're supposed to fix the balance of the galaxy and then I'm going home to Earth.

QWERKISS

"Earth?" What a putrid name! Sounds like a dreary place with dreadful creatures.

MELF

They are flesh and bone with great crimson hearts, and they passeth through childhoods with toys and the terrors.

XANTHEES

The terrors?

MELF

Aye, it maketh them fearful of friends and the future.

PHOEBE

Now wait a minute...

MELF

And they seeketh great riches and fame.

PHOEBE

Now stop it, just stop! Some people on Earth are actually quite nice and generous. Look, Melf, we can't all be as carefree and brave as you Gelves. On Earth we have wars and starvation, and most people have to struggle just to live.

XANTHEES

Well, darlings, take me along and I'll cheer things up, ha, ha!

QWERKISS

Hah! If he goes, I guarantee a catastrophe!

PHOEBE

Look, we'll have to send somebody else back to save you. We just landed here to rest and stretch our legs, then we're taking off.

MELF

Thy gravity maketh stones of my bones!

XANTHEES

If you put on a pair of our Toboboots, you'll feel light as a bubble.

PHOEBE

Well, do you have my size?

XANTHEES

Of course, honey, one size fits all.

PHOEBE

Look, how can one size fit all? We're all born with different feet.

XANTHEES

Toboboots are made of toboites that expand internally to fit any foot, and then they reproduce.

(XANTHEES reaches into his boot and pulls out another smaller boot from inside, then another even smaller, and so on. Meanwhile QWERKISS has produced boots which he gives to MELF and PHOEBE.)

PHOEBE

Wow! I'm impressed!

QWERKISS

Humph! What a waste! Boots that multiply for an endangered species of two.

PHOEBE

You mean there's only two of you?

QWERKISS

That's right, three's a crowd.

XANTHEES

But four's a party!

(MELF and PHOEBE have donned the boots and begin moving in great, graceful leaps.)

PHOEBE

Oh, wow! This is totally weird! I can't seem to stop...

MELF

Thou art dancing!

PHOEBE

Don't be silly; I never dance. I'm too clumsy, and besides, I could sprain my ankle.

QWERKISS

Or break your neck, heh, heh.

PHOEBE

Listen, Earth's gravity isn't nearly as dense as Tobos. With boots like these people could run faster and jump higher than ever before!

PHOEBE

*With Toboboots, we're Tobolight,
We'll run and jump the moon!
With Toboboots, we're Tobolight,
Oh, business is going to boom!*

MELF

Business?

PHOEBE

Imagine:

*Toboboots for everyone with feet;
Toboboots make highways obsolete.
I'll be the first person on earth
To make boots by the millions,
The billions, the trillions!
Throw out your scooters,
Your skates, bikes, and cars;
Just pull on your boots,
And leap to the stars!
From New York to Texas,
From Kansas to Maine;
Cross borders in minutes,
From sunshine to rain!*

MELF

And thou couldst dance!

PHOEBE

Never mind dancing!

XANTHEES, QWERKISS, PHOEBE, MELF

*With Toboboots, we're Tobolight,
We'll run and jump the moon;
With Toboboots, we're Tobolight,
Oh, business is going to boom!*

PHOEBE

*Every boot on Earth will look the same,
'Cause every boot on Earth will bear my name!
I'll be so rich, with money to buy
A place of my own,
My piece of the sky;
With mountains and beaches,
A castle of stone,
A country called Phoebeland,
My new home.*

*In Phoebeland, oh, Phoebeland,
I won't build any schools;
In Phoebeland, oh, Phoebeland,
I'll make up all the rules!
I won't allow bullies or teachers with tests,
I'll be the queen, get rid of the pests!*

PHOEBE (cont'd)

*Yes, I'll be the queen
Of all that I own,
Oh, Phoebeland, Phoebeland,
My new hooooooooome!!*

XANTHEES

Could I live in Phoebeland too?

PHOEBE

Sorry, but we're not really friends.

QWERKISS

She hates us.

PHOEBE

Look, we're not even the same species.

(A loud munching sound is heard.)

PHOEBE

Shush! Listen! Do you hear anything?

XANTHEES and QWERKISS

No.

MELF

Nay.

PHOEBE

It's a like a loud crunching.

(MELF chants, his hands searching in the air.
Meanwhile, the MAMMOTH MOTH appears,
chomping on the planet's surface..)

PHOEBE

Ahhhhhhhhhhh!!! Look, Melf, it followed us from Gelvos! It's feeding on Tobos!

XANTHEES

Where?!

QWERKISS

What's she talking about?

MELF

Faith, I see nothing. 'Tis visible only to human eyes.

PHOEBE

No wonder it's shrinking! We'll be eaten alive if we don't leave fast!

XANTHEES

I'm too young to die!

QWERKISS

No, you're not.

MELF

Flee with us -- to planet Earth.

Want to read the rest? Just click on [Place an Order](#) and read a perusal script for free!